

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02  
AID-05 IGA-02 ABF-01 /080 W  
-----091219Z 012515 /21  
O 091135Z APR 77 ZFF  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2561

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5067

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, IN  
SUBJECT: INDIAN AID TO VIETNAM

1. INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA CALLED IN THE CHARGE APRIL 9 TO SEEK ADVICE REGARDING A POSSIBLE NOMINAL INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE NON-ALIGNED SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF LAO AND VIETNAM, AND THE IMPLICATION OF SUCH A CONTRIBUTION FOR US-INDIA RELATIONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR THIS FUND ON MARCH 28; INDIA DID NOT REPEAT NOT PLEDGE AND AS A RESULT FINDS ITSELF IN A DIFFICULT POSITION DURING THE CURRENT MEETINGS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN NEW DELHI. MEHTA, INCIDENTALLY NOTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE AT THE CURRENT CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN SOBER, PARTICULARLY AS COMPARED WITH THE NORTH KOREANS. HE DESCRIBED THEIR BEHAVIOR AS "FUNCTIONAL AND SENSIBLE".

2. MEHTA EXPLAINED THAT INDIA HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO THE FUND BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WISH TO GIVE THE USG A PROBLEM. HE SAID THE GOI WAS AWARE OF THE WAIVER AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH US PL-480 ASSISTANCE TO INDIA COULD CONTINUE BUT HE WONDERED IF INDIA'S USE OF IT COULD BE EMPLOYED TO CAUSE BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE US AND INDIA. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED: (A) WAS THERE A DIFFERENCE UNDER THE LAW BETWEEN CONTRIBUTING TO AN INDEPENDENT  
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SOLIDARITY FUND FOR VIETNAM AND LAOS AND A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO VIETNAM; AND WOULD A PLEDGE AS PROPOSED TO A PAYMENT CALL INTO ACTION THE LEGISLATION BANNING AID TO VIETNAM.

3. IN REPLY THE CHARGE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLIDARITY FUND AND A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION. ALSO HE CONSIDERED THE EFFECT OF A PLEDGE

WOULD BE THE SAME AS A CONTRIBUTION. IN BOTH CASES THE LAW WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY AND INDIA WOULD HAVE TO SEEK A WAIVER. THE CHARGE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATMOSPHERE IN WASHINGTON HAD CHANGED BECAUSE OF BOTH THE SUCCESS OF THE WOODCOCK MISSION AND THE INDIAN ELECTIONS. A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION WAS UNDERWAY WHICH WE WERE HOPEFUL WOULD RESOLVE THE MIA PROBLEM AND IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION OF US/VIETNAM RELATIONS. IT SEEMED LIKELY THAT ULTIMATELY THE LEGISLATIVE BAR ON ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM BY COUNTRIES RECEIVING U.S. AID WOULD BE ELIMINATED. WHILE THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE SOME PEOPLE ON THE HILL WHO WOULD LOOK FOR WAYS SUCH AS AN INDIAN WAIVER, TO CRITICIZE INDIA, THERE WERE NOW MANY WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND.

4. FINALLY, THE CHARGE TOLD MEHTA HE WOULD SEEK WASHINGTON'S OVERNIGHT ADVICE, PARTICULARLY ON THE LEGAL QUESTIONS MEHTA HAD ASKED. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN GETTING A RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE OVER THE EASTER WEEKEND, WE HOPE THE DEPARTMENT CAN AT LEAST CONFIRM OR OTHERWISE COMMENT ON THE REPLY WE HAVE GIVEN BY NIACT IMMEDIATE RETURN TELEGRAM. MEHTA SAID HE NEEDS AN ANSWER BY EARLY MONDAY MORNING DELHI TIME. SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** EAID, IN, VN, (MEHTA, JAGAT)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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